9: Prothero G-4 (no date) 1920 RD1 Ukraine RD1

The construction of light railways in agricultural districts would be of great benefit to the country, but no steps have as yet been taken towards this end.

(*d*) *Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones*

In organization the Russian postal system much resembles that of other European countries, but in extent it is considerably below the average standard. Rural districts are poorly served, although a special effort to improve their facilities has recently been made. Russia is a member of the Universal Postal Union.

Owing to delay and loss of ordinary correspondence, an immense quantity is sent by registered post, especially commercial correspondence, but also newspapers and periodicals.

Parcel post and the sending of goods 'cash on delivery' are in working, but the regulations as to packing, &c., are minute and very vexatious, though necessary to prevent theft in transit.

The facilities for transmitting money through the post are freely made use of, particularly by peasants working at a distance from their homes. In 1910 there were over 40,000,000 dispatches of this kind, their total value being upwards of £200,000,000.

Telegraphs.—Of the total length of telegraph wire for public use in Russia, more than one-third is owned by the private railway companies, the remainder by the postal department. Charges are low, but the service is moderate. Much use is made of 'urgent' telegrams at triple rates to ensure prompt and correct delivery.

Telephones.—The telephone system is fairly well developed in towns in the Ukraine. Private enterprise first entered the field, a company worked by the Bell Telephone Syndicate obtaining a concession for an installation at Odessa in 1895. Shortly afterwards the State established systems at Kiev, Kharkov, and other towns. Still later the *zemstvos* in certain districts interested themselves, and many systems